



Opening Shot

First, thanks to everyone who sent cards or wishes for the holidays. Obviously I can't send cards to the 70 plus of you who receive this. But I was fortunate enough to meet some of you during the holidays. I spent a day at Garvin Boyle's in December, playing Diplomacy with some of his buddies, dinner after. Thanks Garvin. Good game; good dinner. Then Errol Platt and his buddies tried their skill against yours truly in Mississauga. That didn't turn out as well for me as Garvin's game did. We all had a good time, even if Errol stabbed me. I guess he was paying me back for what I had done to Garvin.

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Back home, Ralph Morton and his wife invited Ann and me to lunch and gave us a bottle of homemade wine which is now maturing. Thanks Ralph.

Then Randolph Smyth returned with us to spend a day and a half in the Québec countryside. He plays quite a mean game of "Go"--trounced me every game. He also filled me in on some of the background of the Canadian Diplomacy Organization and encour-

aged me to accept a nomination for Co-ordinator of the CDO. (On that subject, the deadline for nominations was 15 January. I phoned John Leedhr to discover who the nominees were and he told me that it looked like an acclamation for both posts, as of the 16th, but that he was extending the deadline to the 22nd because of poor postal service. I hope someone else decides to run, but you'll probably know by the time you receive this from other sources.) Anyhow, glad to have met everyone!

You'll notice some reorganization of the zine this month. Though there are three new games here, it's four pages less than last month's issue, without cutting anything. More changes due! For example, game reports will likely get shoved back further into the zine so articles can be nested in before the deadline. Oh, and François Guerrier has denied me permission to print anything he sends me. Okay. We've lots of other things to talk about.

SNAFU! is a zine devoted to the postal play of Diplomacy and its variants. It is a game invented by Allan Calhamer, made in Canada by House of Games Corp., Bramalea, Ontario.

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1980 IC - Mensa 12

PALL, 1906: MURKIS TAKES MUNICH AS GERMANS ANNIHILATE AUSTRIAN ARMY IN WARSAW; ENGLISH HOLD OFF SEA ATTACK!

AUS (Sharon Ponne): A Tyr* S TUR A Bob - Hun; A Vie - Bob*; A Bid - Bal*; A Tri* S A Tyr; F Ton - Tyr*; A War δ TUR A Mon /A/.

ENG (Charles Byrne): A StP* = Mos; F Nwg* C A Edi - Nwv*; F Nth - Eng*; A Por* S & F MAO* δ F Sna (sc)*; F NAO* S F MAO.

GER (Rick Young): A Pnu* S & A Sil* S A Lvn - War*; A Gas* S A Mar*; A Bal - Kie*; F Bot - Bal*; A Hun δ A Sil /d/ (R: Ber, Ruh, Bur, O^{mb}B).

FRA (Darryl Phillips): A Ven* S AUS A Tyr; A Pie* - Mar; A Tus* - Pie.

TUR (Dan Wilson): A Mos* δ & A Ukr* S AUS A War; A Sev* S A Rus; A Bob - Hun*; F Lvo* S FRA A Pie - Mar; F Naf* S F Wied* - MAQ; F Tun* - Wied.

SUPPLY CENTRE CHART: Winter, 1906

AUS (6-5, even because of /A/): home, Ser, Gre, ~~Warsaw~~.

ENG (3-3, even): home, Iwy, For, Swe, StP, Spa.

GER (7-9, build one because of /A/): Kie, Ber, Han~~sch~~, Den, Hol, Bel, Par, Bre, Mar, WARSAW.

FRA (6-5, even): home.

TUR (8-9, build one): home, Bul, Rum, Sev, Mos, Tun, MUNICH.

Autumn Retreat, Winter Builds, and Spring, 1907 due 20 FEB.

READS

Berlin to Rome: What's it like being a puppet? I'd rather go down fighting.

Vienna: Our government welcomes the Prime Minister Phillips and will give all their cooperation in the construction of pizza huts. Turkey has been invited to the dedication ceremonies when construction is finished.

lio de Janiero (Free French): The French President-in-exile has reportedly sent reinforcements from South America to aid rebels in Ireland, Marneilles, and Basque Spain. Further reports that French hit men have been dispatched to London and Berlin have been termed by the President "preposterous."

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NOTE: Chip Charnley, 1713 Alder St., Virginia Beach, VA 23462, telephoned to ask me to pass on that he needs two standbys to keep Henna #13 going. There have been problems with this game due to poor postal service to Iceland, but now that Chip is back on the mainland, the game should proceed smoothly. Jim Wilson, Jon Johnson, Bruce Ponne, Walter Compton, and myself are already involved, so this needs someone else. There is no charge for standbys. You can phone him at (804) 467-7547.

Mensa 16

1900: NEW WORLD LEADERS DONTING BATTLE GEAR.

AUS: Walter Compton, Apartado 2940, Caracas 101, Venezuela
ENG: Steve Geislinger, 4345 Lamar St., Wheatridge, CO 80033
FRA: Robert Young, 49, 16 Annandale Ln., Little Neck, NY 11362
GER: "Windy" Windblad, 10 Bay P-43816, Florence, AZ 85232
ITA: Keith Sessler, 400 Bidwell, Albion, MI 49224
RUS: Dave Lincoln, 2216 Kings Forest Rd., Conyers, GA 30208
TUR: Paula Marie Dodge, c/o IBM Corp. 002A814, Owego, NY 13827

Spring, 1901 due Saturday, 20 February, 1982.

NOTES: I received the list of players for this game from Glenn Overby on the 30 December and mailed the concerned players the starting positions and deadline on the 31st. As only two of the above are currently subscribers, the Spring deadline is predicated on the event that all will take out subs and pay game fees by that date. If not, the deadline will be re-set until SIG replacements can be found. In other words, don't reveal your Spring orders until you're certain this game has begun on time. Meanwhile, welcome aboard.

About the Bourse with this game, don't worry about that. It has no effect on the Regular game. I had intended to put it with North-3, but had a player who wanted to be in both.

Bourse

This is to be run with the above game. I suppose the game fee will be the same as for a regular game. Smith and Gaughan have paid. If anyone else wants to join the Bourse with a starting position (1000 units of each currency plus \$1000US), submit orders and game fee by the Spring, 1901 deadline (which will always be a few days before the game deadline). Otherwise anyone can start at any time after the start, but with only \$500US. Also, include a name for your investment group (like, National Monies, Registered) so I can abbreviate it (like, NMR). Players in the Bourse may submit Press--claim a city not on the Regular playing board for datelines. Good luck.

Blair Busack, 656 Josselyn Ct., Kelowna, BC V1X 5Y9
Pete Gaughan, 2629 Portland #304A, Los Angeles, CA 90007
Jan Jensen, 115 Albro Lake Rd. #3, Dartmouth, NS B3A 3Y7
Darryl Phillips, PEA Box 750, Exeter, NH 03833
Roy Smith, 64 Addicks Rd., Westwood, NJ 07657
Dan Wilson, 268955, B-2-3-11, Wynne Unit, Huntsville, TX 77340

Spring, 1901 deadline: Wednesday, 17 February, 1982.

111122223333444455556666777788889999000000

Q: What is written on the bottom of Martian milk bottles?

A: "Open other end!"

Q: What is written on the top of Martian milk bottles?

A: "See other end for opening instructions."

(Citation from The Isolated M with a few changes.)

1981 W - North 1

AUTUMN, 1903: AUS: A Vie & Bud*; FRA: F Bre R Gas*; ITA: A Hun & Ruh*, F Gre R OPB!

WINTER, 1903: ITALY SCUTTERS FLEET, BUILDS ANOTHER; ENGLISH, CHICKS OFF FOR ARMIES, RUSSIA FOR FLEET.

AUS (Bob Olsen): Even. Has: A Bud, A Gre, A Hun, F Aeg.

ENG (Errol Platt): B A Don. Has: A Hol, F Nth, F Bel, F Eng, F Bre, F MAO.

GER (Bruce Poppe): D A Mar. Has: A Bur, A Pic, F Gas, F Por.

ITA (Bill Young): B F Nap. Has: A Ruh, A Vie, A Tri, F Ion, F WMed.

RUS (Garvin Boyle): B F StP (sc). Has: A Mos, A Sev, A War, A Sib, A Pru, A Ber, F Rum, F Kie.

PRK (Steve Hutton): B A Ank. Has: A Con, A Smy, F Bul (ec).

Spring, 1904 due Saturday, 20 February, 1982.

NOTES: Time for Steve Hutton to move again. This time back to: Rm 6, West 5, Village 1, Box 460, Waterloo, Ont. N2J 4B6. Yes, I know he lived there before.

I have tentative spring orders on hand from Italy, Russia, and France.

PRESS

Paris: Ouch! Cut that out! Or else I'll turn you into terrine de jambon.

Moscow to Rome: Any further attempt by the Italian powers to extend their influence into the Eastern European theatre will be considered an act of unforgiveable interference.

Moscow: With the recent collapse of the Austrian government, the tension in Eastern Europe is building to an explosive climax. In an attempt to stabilize the area the Czar has dispatched a number of special military attachés to the four corners of the empire of his late friend and ally.

1981 KA - North 2

FALL, 1901: RUSSIA AND AUSTRIA AREN'T GOING TO LIKE THIS!

AUS (Nelson Millar): A Ser - Rum*; F Alb* - Gre; A Vie* - Gal.

ENG (Lori Jensen): F Nth* & A Edi - Hwy*; F Nwg - Bar*.

FRA (Jack Jung): A Mar - Spa*; A Bur - Bel*; F MAO - Por*.

GER (Blair Cusack): F Don* - Swo; A Hun* II; A Ruh - Hol*.

ITA (Dan Wilson): A Tri - Bud*; F Ion* & A Nap* - Gre.

RUS (Pete Gaughan): F Sov* & A Ukr* - Rum; A War* - Gal; F Bot* - Sve.

PUR (George Mills): A Bur* & A Ser - Rum; F Ank - Bla*; A Arm* - Sov.

SNAFU!

SUPPLY CENTRE CHART, Winter, 1901

AUS (3-3, even): Vie, Tri, ~~Budapest~~, RUMANIA.
 ENG (3-4, build one): home, NORWAY.
 FRA (3-6, build 3): home, BELGIUM, SPAIN, PORTUGAL.
 GER (3-5, build 2): home, DENMARK, HOLLAND.
 ITA (3-4, build one): home, BUDAPEST.
 RUS (4-4, even): home.
 TUR (3-4, build one): home, BULGARIA.
 NEUTRALS: Sweden, Tunis, Greece, Serbia.

Winter, 1901 due Saturday, 20 February, 1982.

PRESS

Austria to Italy: Your brash and violent attack on Trieste (after having agreed on peace) will not go unavenged. Leave now and never darken my doorstep again.

Moscova (Tsarist Press): If our neighbors to the south would say something, then maybe we could disagree with them.

Warsaw (T.P.): The Tsar is extremely disappointed that with the shrinking of that bully pulpit, SNAFU, the world has also obtained a shrink in press. With the many verbose leaders in Europe, he expects many witty comments from ally and enemy alike.

Moscova (T.P.): Revolution has been muttered about the streets of our fair city this week; small, clandestine groups are already being formed to unionize the workers. When asked about this, Crown Princess Natasha laughed and pointed out that peasant uprising or worker unrest were a constant in Russian society, but that the Empire had always, and would continue for centuries, ignored such disturbances as Turk-inspired.

North 3

1900: WHAT NEW NASTY TRICKS AWAITS US?

AUS: Nelson Millar, 327 Wilfred Leblanc, Maniwaki, PQ J9E 1X7
 ENG: Doug Millstone, Suite 204, 2100 Ellesmere Rd.,
 Scarborough, Ontario M1H 3B7
 FRA: Bern Sampson, 123 - 6th St., Middlesex, NJ 08846
 GER: Martin Taylor, 67 Clareview Rd., Edmonton, Alta T5A 3X2
 ITA: Roy Smith, 64 Addicks Rd., Westwood, NJ 07657
 RUS: Tom Swider, 1183 Robinson Hill Rd., Endwell, NY 13760
 TUR: Dennis Duncan, 1216 14th St. E., Saskatoon, Sask. S7H 0A4

Spring, 1901 due Saturday, 27 February, 1982.

NOTES: A slightly longer deadline so you can all get acquainted. The Fall, 1901 deadline will be five weeks, and if we shorten the Winter, 1901 deadline to four weeks, we'll be back in step with SNAFU! thereafter.

Position were assigned by lot, but they're not far off from the preferences some people submitted.

Good novice versus old-timer, East versus West, Canadian versus American starting line up. Should be interesting to see how it all sorts out. Bonne chance!

1979 HA - Orphan 1

AUTUMN, 1908: AUS: F Gre R Alb*; GER: A Hun R Sil*.

WINTER, 1908: AUS: D A Gal; FRA: B A Par, F Bre, F Mar; GER: D A Sil; RUS: B F StP (nc).

SPRING, 1909: GERMANY LOSES ARMY, FRANCE LOSES GREECE, AND TURKEY LOSES TURKEY.

AUS (Nelson Millar): A Tyr - Ven /d/ (R: Tri, OTB); A Bud* H; F Alb* - Adr; A Bul - Gre*.

RUS (Dave Carter): F Hel* S FRE F Nth - Den.

FRA (Tom Swider): F Adr* S F Ion - Alb (NSU); A Pie - Tyr*; A Hol* S & A Hun* & A Ruh* - Kie; A Bur* - Ruh; F Mar - Spa (nc)*; F Bre - Eng*; A Par - Pic*; F Nth - Den*; F Nwg* - Hwy; F Gre U /d/ (R: Ion, OTB).

GER (Bern Johnson): A Den & A Ber* S A Kie* (A Den /n/); A Kie & A Den.

FIN (Don Wilson): A Ven* S FRE A Pie - Tyr; A Smy* S F Aeg - Con*; F Ion - Aeg*.

RUS (George Mills): F Bla* S A Arm - Ank*; A Ser* S AUS A Bul - Gre; A Boh* - Hun; A Vie* - Tyr; F Hwy* & F StP (nc) - Bar*; A Swe* S F Hwy.

FIN (D): A Con /n/; A Ank /n/.

Summer Retreat and Fall, 1909 due Saturday, 20 February, 1982.

NOTES: We have two proposals. One is for a concession to France. The other is for a French-Russian draw. Please vote for one or the other with your next orders.

There was one request for a separation of seasons.

Lastly, there was a typo last name report. The Russian orders should have read: A Hwy* S A Fin - Swe*. Gotta watch those Hwy's and Hwy's!

PRESS

England - Germany: I can just see me attacking France! Bye bye Edinburgh!

Austria - World: Necessity is the mother of invention, but who is the mother of toadies?

Trusting Tom to "sarie Toadies (Namely Germany & Austria): are you going nowhere fast? Bogged down? Join the French Frogs, the only toadie union. No fees required, just your SC's. Apply within.

Germany - Tom's "toadies: You have no chance of winning this game. Why now get a little satisfaction by sticking it to the Boss Frog? Go out with a smile, not a whimper.

Doubting Thomas to Simple Samson: I think that the "stop the leader" alliance idea for standby powers is overused, and not always successful. As a standby player, I definitely don't like that idea. Also, I never stabbed Italy or England. We made deals, which lead to your demise. Before I took over the French position, you brutally betrayed England; now he tastes his sweet revenge...

SNAFU!

French Connection to Aus, Ger, Rus: "O, you are well tuned now!/But I'll set down the pegs that make this music,/ As honest as I am." (Othello, II, i, 231-235)

Munich to Moscow: With friends like you, I don't need Swider.

1979 AE - Orphan 2

AUTUMN, 1905: ENG: A StP R Hwy*; FRA: A Mar R Bur*; GER: F Kie R Hel*; ITA: F Tun R OTB.

WINTER, 1905: POPE RETIRES DURING FLURRY OF BUILDING.

AUS (Dan MacLellan): B A Bud. Has: A Gal, A Vie, A Tri, A Ven, A Anu, F Adr.

ENG (Bob Acheson): D F Nwg. Has: A Fin, A Hwy, F Nth, F Ska.

FRA (John Davies): B A Par. Has: A Kie, A Hol, A Bur, A Spa, F MAO, F Eng.

GER (Kathy Kelly, George Mills): D A Boh. Has: A Sil, A Tyr, F Hel.

ITA (Kathy Lynch): D A Nap. Has: A Mar, A Pie, A Rom.

RUS (Jan Jensen): Even. Has F Swe.

TUR (Dave Carter): B F Smy & A Ank. Has: A StP, A Mos, A War, F Tyr, F Tun, F Ion, F Aeg.

Spring, 1906 due Saturday, 20 February, 1982.

NOTES: Kathy Lynch has resigned her position, effective this season. Will "Windy" Windblad, PO Box B 43816, Florence, AZ 85232, please assume the Italian position? Note that mail to Windy must be in envelopes. I have tentative Spring orders on hand from England, Russia, Turkey, and Germany. Thanks to Steve Hutton for submitting unneeded standby orders.

PLAYER ADDRESSES, 1979 AE:

Dan MacLellan, 59 Gloucester Cres SW, Calgary, Alta.

Bob Acheson, c/o Echo Bay Mines, Lupin Project, PO Box 2938, Yellowknife, NWT X1A 2R2.

John Davies, Box 968, Port Hardy, BC V0N 2P0.

George Mills, 1923 Westminster Ave., Windsor, Ont. N8T 1X5.

Jan Jensen, 115 Albro Lake Rd., #3, Dartmouth, NS B3A 3Y7.

Dave Carter, 118 Horsham Ave., Willowdale, Ont. M2N 1Z9.

1978 O - Orphan 3

AUTUMN, 1907: GER: A Hwy R Fin*.

WINTER, 1907: ENG: B A Lon, A Edi; GER: D A Mos; TUR: B F Smy, A Con, A Ank (one short).

SPRING, 1908: LOOKS LIKE A KAISER SANDWICH!

ENG (Dan MacLellan): F Nth* C A Edi* - Den; F Eng* C A Lon - Bel*; F Mar - Pic*; F Iyo - WMed*; F WMed - NAF*; F Nwg*; S A Hwy*; A Hol* S A Den - Kte*; A Bur* S A Kie - Mun*.

GER (Bern Jamison): A Tri* S A Pie - Ven*; A Bud - Vie*;
A Hun ~~A Ber~~ - ~~Gre~~ (A Hun / d/ R: Sij, Boh, Tyr, Ikh,
 OTB); F Swe* S F Del - Den*; A Fin* S F Swe; A Stp* -
 Hwy.

ITA (V): A Den / u/.

TUR (Wayne Norton): A Sev - Hwy*; A Ank - Arm*; A Ser - Rum*;
 A Gre - Ser*; A Con - Bur*; F Rum - Sev*; F Rom - Rus*;
 F Hun* H; F Ion - Adr*; F Jim - Kon*.

Fall, 1903 due Saturday, 20 February, 1982.

NOTES: The proposed three-way draw was defeated. We now have a proposal for a draw between England and Turkey. No vote received will count as a "Yes" to this proposal. Vote with your next set of orders.

REGG

Germany: The Kaiser votes yes to the EGT draw. Peace, y'all.
 London - Constantinople: You've got yourself an ally!

1980 AM - Orphan 4

SPRING, 1904: FRANCE AND GERMANY DISAGREE ON HOW TO INVADE
 ENGLAND. SULTAN RESIGNS!

Alb (Alain Martine): A Bud* S A Vie*; A Ser* S RUS A Ukr -
 Rum; F Ion - Gre / d/ (R: EMed, Aeg, Alb, Apu, Tyr, OTB).

ENG (Jan Jensen): A Stp* H; F Swe - Bal*; F Hun - Wal*; F Nth
 - Hel*; F Ska* S F Hwy - Nth*; A Den - Kie.

WRA (Pete Gaughan): A Pic - Lon (IMP); A Bur - Pic; A Par*
 - Bur; A Tyr* H; F WMed* H.

GER (Claude Gautron): A Kie S A Hun*; A Hol* S A Ruh - Bel*;
 F Stp* S FRE A Pic - Wal (NSO).

ITA (Bob Albrecht): A Ten* S & F Adr* S A Tri*; F Nap* S
 F Hun - Ion*.

IND (Dave Carter): F Sev* S F Bla*; F Bla S A Ukr - Rum*;
 A Hon - Hun*.

TUR (Kathy Lynch): A Bul - Gre; A Con - Bul; F Ank - Con;
 F Ann* - Ann.

Summer Retreat and Fall, 1903 due Saturday, 20 February.

NOTES: Kathy Lynch has resigned her position, effective this season. With Rob Lowes, 655 Parkhill Rd. W, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 6H7, please assume the Turkish position?

PLAYER ADDRESSES, 1980 AM

Alain Martine, 47 rue Chartres, Dollard des Ormeaux, Québec, H9A 1J7.

Jan Jensen, 115 Albion Lake Rd. #4, Dartmouth, NS B3A 3Y7.

Pete Gaughan, 12024 Penford Dr., La Miranda, CA 90638.

Claude Gautron, 620 rue St-Jean Baptiste, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 2Y1.

Bob Albrecht, 2208 - 9 Ave. N, North Battleford, Alta. T1R 1G5.

Dave Carter, 118 Brynham Ave., #11 Cowdale, Ont. M9H 1E9.

SNAFU!

PRESS

Livonia - England: Gee, I hope that we bounced here or else I'm gonna look awful stupid?

Italian High Command to Anyone Who Cares: We've just finished building the Third Fleet and intend to annihilate the Austrian remains. Death to the infidels!

Paris (French Broadcasting Inc): The French Republic points out that is has not yet been removed from play. Quoting Jesus, "Rumors of my demise have been greatly exaggerated."

France to England: Who can you trust these days? You started making promises even before I wrote, in the press; then you didn't keep 'em.

Coq-au-vin (French Broadcasting, Inc.): Foreign Minister Leclerc has requested censure of the Italian government by other Great Powers over the rejection of friendly advances offered by France to that nation. Negotiations on limiting new nuclear cannons have already been broken off, but this is regarded by Italy as a mere slap on the back.

1980 HM - Orphan 5

SUMMER, 1903: FRA: A Bur R Par*; F MAO R WMed*.

FALL, 1903: FRANCE UNDER ATTACK WHILE RUSSIA MOVES WEST.

AUS (Keller/Meffert, Mark Keller): A Ven* - Pie; A Nap* H; F Ion* - Tun; F Adr* - Ion; A Rum* & A Tri - Ser*; A Gal* S A Rum; A Ser - Gre*.

ENG (John Horn): F Iri - MAO*; F Eng* S F MAO - Bre*; A Bel* - Pie; F Nth* H.

FRA (John Davies): A Mar* - Pie; A Par* - Bur; A Bre - Pie /a/ (R: Gas, OFB); A Por* - Spa; F WMed* - Tun.

GER (Claude Gautron): A Bur* & A Spa* - Mar; A Ruh* S A Bur; F Kie* H.

ITA (CD): A Apu*.

RUS (Steve Colombo): A War - Sil*; A Sev - Mos*; A Mos - War*; A Ukr* S F Arm - Sev*; F Den* H.

TUR (Lori Jensen): A Bul* S F Bla* - Rum; A Con* S A Bul; F Ank* H.

SUPPLY CENTRE CHARM: Winter, 1903

AUS (8-9, build one): home, Ser, Gre, Rum, Ven, Rom, NAPLES.

ENG (5-6, build one): home, Hwy, Bel, BREST.

FRA (5-3, disband 2): Par, Mar, Brest, Spain, Por.

GER (4-5, build one): home, Hol, SPAIN.

ITA (1-0, out): ~~A Apu~~.

RUS (6-6, even): home, Sve, Den.

TUR (4-4, even): home, Bul.

Autumn Retreat, Winter Builds, and Spring, 1904 due 20 February

REGS

London - Berlin: Better dead than red.

Tienna - World: greetings from the new government of Austria.

1981 Qwc02 - Variant 1 (Conquest of the New World II)

"...to seek out, discover and find whatsoever islands, continents, regions and provinces of the heathens and infidels in whatsoever part of the world they be, which before this time have been unknown to all Christians...to acquire dominion, title and jurisdiction over those towns, castles, islands and mainlands so discovered." (From the letters patent issued to John Cabot by Henry VII, King of England, in 1497.)

1594 (Fall)

ESPAGN (formerly Indians) (Chip Charnley): A Pueblo - California; A Cartagena H.

ENGLAND (Fred Davis): F Bahama H, A disembarks Virginia; F Bermuda H, A disembarks Nova Scotia (A/F Bermuda H).

FRANCE (George Hills): F Northern Seas H, A disembarks Québec; F St. Lawrence H, A disembarks Nova Scotia (A/F St. Lawrence H)

PORTUGAL (Steve Hutton): F Falkland H, A disembarks La Plata; F Rio de H, A disembarks Brazil.

SPAIN (Dan Wilson): F Antilles H, A disembarks Venezuela; A/F Hispaniola - Jamaica.

SHIP BY COUNTRY

ESP (2-4, build two): Mexico, Peru, CALIFORNIA, CARTEGENIA.

ESP (3-5, build one): 4 home, VIRGINIA.

ESP (4-5, build one): 4 home, QUEREC.

POR (4-6, build two): 4 home, BRAZIL, LA PLATA.

CFA (4-6, build two): 4 home, JAMAICA, ANTILLES.

1593 (Winter) and 1600 (Spring) due SATURDAY, 16 JANUARY, 1982.

1593 (Winter)

ESPAGN: Build a Peru, A Mexico.

ENGLAND: Build F Atlantic.

FRANCE: Build F Atlantic.

PORTUGAL: Build two F's Atlantic.

SPAIN: NBB! will play two short.

"I did not see a castload of good earth. To be short I believe that this was the land that God allotted to Cain." (From Jacques Cartier's Log, July, 1534)

1600

ESPAGN (Chip Charnley): A California - Missouri; A Mexico - Central America; A Cartagena; A Peru - Venezuela.

ENGLAND (Fred Davis): F Bermuda H, A disembarks Delaware; A/F Virginia - Troopis; F Bahama - Florida; F Atl - Bahama.

FRANCE (George Mills): A Québec - Huron; F St. Lawrence II, A disembarks Nova Scotia; F Northern Seas - Atl; F Atl - Bahama.

PORUGAL (Steve Hutton): F Atl S F Atl - Antilles; F Shelf - Delta Sea; F Falkland Sea - South Pacific; A Brazil - Amazon Delta; A La Plata - Paraguay.

SPAIN (Dan Wilson): NMR! A/F Jamaica II; F Antilles /d/ (R: Hispaniola, Caribbean, OMB); A Venezuela /A/.

1602 (Retreat) and 1604 due Saturday, 20 February, 1982.

NOTES: Standby for Spain is Tom Swider, 1183 Robinson Hill Rd. Endwell, NY 13760. I am sure Dan intends to continue, but, just in case.... Steve Hutton has moved to: Rm 6, West 5, Village 1, Box 460, Waterloo, Ontario N2J 4B6. Chip Charnley has moved to: 723 Alder Ct., Virginia Beach, VA 23462.

Letters

First, this is left over from last month, as I wanted to get some reaction from other players first. Jan Jensen: "...I do disagree with rule #36 ((of my HouseRules)). There are numerous instances when a country with '...four or fewer units on the board after the beginning of the fifth year of play, or which has the least number of units of the surviving powers after the beginning of the tenth year of play...' still has an important bearing on the outcome of a long, closely contested game. As an example, I make reference to 1978 O - Orphan 3, where Italy was placed in CD." He then outlines how Italy could influence events in that game and continues: "But let me not criticize without making a simple suggestion: why not appoint a standby for any abandoned country under any circumstances. If no one is willing to take over a country assignment, then let it go into CD.

"Finally, most of us in the hobby (I assume) are not just interested in winning but winning as a result of skill and strategy. With rule #36 in effect, it is quite possible for someone to be handed a win on a silver platter because of an advantageous CD, much to the dismay of his/her opponents. And the person who wins in this manner might consider the victory a rather hollow one."

Dan Wilson supports Jan: "I feel that a country larger than three centres should not be placed in CD unless there are no standbys. What are standbys for anyway?"

On the other side, Wayne Norton wrote: "With regard to house-rule #36, I can understand that some people will object to the idea of supply centres being more or less put up for grabs, but you have to draw the line somewhere and I feel the rule does a fair job."

Okay, to CD or not to CD has never been agreed on. I have heard that in Great Britain, for example, standbys are rarely, if ever, used. If a 17 centre power goes into CD, tough. In NA where standbys are used, as far as I know there is no consensus on when to call a standby. I'm playing in one game where the GM allowed two 8-centre powers to go into CD. It was as Jan says, a victory on a silver platter, and a hollow win. On the other hand, I know of at least one case where a GM has

called for a standby to submit orders for a country with 0 supply centres! (One unit left, last supply centre in spring.) Surely the latter case is a waste of the standby's time? When I wrote the rule I was seeking a balance between extremes. I wanted to put down numbers and game years, rather than a vague "No standby will be called for if the GM considers the position hopeless." As with most rules, I was trying to look at it from the player's point of view. As a player, I resent it when a large power is placed in CD and, as a standby, I resent being asked to take over a hopeless position. I suspect that others may feel as Jan and Dan do. I could be wrong on the numbers and game years. Whatever, I'm listening....

On the lighter side, from Steve Hutton: "You should mention that Nicolas II is considered a saint by the Russian Orthodox Church outside of Russia. The church leaders in Russia would be neither brave enough nor foolish enough to make Nick a saint.

"My comments on the "Rules" articles. I wouldn't have thought anyone could get even one good article from the first paraphrase of the rule book.

"...I noticed that you could type a 'c' with a thing on the bottom. Is that an extra key at the side on typewriters in Quebec? Do you also get à, è, ê, ô, ã, etc.? I've never seen ã on any typewriters in Ontario."

Yes, you're right about St. Nick. And the "Rules" articles remind me of my students when I ask them for a 100 word essay on the setting of 1934. ("But, si-r, how can anyone write that much?") If you're interested in something, there's no limit to the number of words you can churn out on it.

And, yes, my typewriter has two extra keys: à è and ô ã. The ô ã key doesn't move the carriage, so you can put the vowel under it without back-tracking. No, I don't have the two dot thingy, but " will do. Can't write in Spanish either, as the dohicky is attached to the e. Actually all this is the reason I have a manual typewriter. About eight years ago I decided to splurge on a decent machine and couldn't find an electric with a French keyboard anywhere in Ottawa. I found that outrageous. This is supposed to be a bilingual country (according to the mandarins in Ottawa). Glad to see John Leeder managed to find a new typewriter with a French keyboard in Calgary. The times they are a-changin'.

From Bill Young: "Congratulation to the Canadian government for being able to make their astounding polar bear versus oil spills discoveries at an expense of only \$121,000. USA would have spent \$121,000,000 for the same studies/ experiments/ junkets etc.--no different results.

"As probably the 2nd oldest, in age, Dinky player and now one of the older, in hobby years, I feel qualified to insist that our most common problem is publisher burn out--getting involved in so much work that the hobby becomes a chore rather than a pleasure.

"You seem to be aware of this. I hope you will stick by your decision to start no new games. Let's delay any new variants until your enthusiasm returns. Should you limit your number of subscribers?"

Thanks for your concern. It is a problem. Folds cause chain reactions throughout the hobby. I feel all Canadian zines are overloaded now, thanks to certain Canadian subbers in the past who shall remain nameless. But if we all hang in there, it should work out. Still, I think all of us in the Canadian hobby would welcome two or three decent new zines to take some of the pressure off. For me, I feel that about 5 or 6 games is the most I can do full justice to. By starting only one new one for every two or three that finish, I'll get down there eventually, though I may feel better able to handle more by then.

Don't get me wrong: most of it is a pleasure, but there is a lot of drudge work, and it does bother me that I'm making mistakes in adjudications (because of doing 10 in one weekend and trying to get the whole package together and mailed as fast as possible).

New subbers are no problem. It just means another address label and they're easy to do with the method I now have. I have one sub to #54, so I've got to last at least that long. How's that for faith? Now, if only I could convince the government to give me \$100,000 to study the effects of highways on skunks!

Here's food for thought from Pete Gaughan: "I have a request for your subbers. I'd like to find out how some people reconcile their religion with a simulation war game, especially one that thrives on lies. Personally, I remain deeply committed to the Bible and the teachings and person of Jesus Christ; I will retain my logic, until I hear from a few others, of how to play Dip with that set of values."

Any responses out there? A similar question has occurred to me, as the game runs counter to the morality I was taught and still retain. My answer runs something like this: it's better that people be nasty, underhanded, and generally dispicable in a fantasy game setting than in real life. A Diplomacy game, for me, directs my aggressiveness in a harmless direction, enabling me to better cope, in a more positive way with life's frustrations. In other words, playing role games which release one's aggressions in a socially acceptable way may help you to become a better Christian in real life? Maybe? It sounds rather glib, so someone else answer please.

And though Pete sent this as a "Press Release" I feel it's more appropriate here. I heard the same complaint from another player on the phone a few days ago. It's something I've also noticed in my own games lately. I wonder if it's becoming a general malaise throughout the hobby? "Los Angeles to all you Canadians--My policy is this: for the good of the game I will stand by for almost anything, but in return I expect some help from continuing players--letters of welcome, updates on alliances and strategies (within reason), and so forth; in other words, some simple courtesy. You all failed miserably, since as of 20 November I had received one letter--and that from a player not bordering on me! I still have received only one letter from each of three powers. Please, don't discourage other potential standbys by continuing this kind of welcome."

I wonder if the problem isn't that too many people are playing too many games? I try to write every power in every game I'm in at least once per game year, often once per season. I can't always thanks to DIPLOMAG and SNAFU!, but I have noticed very

few people are writing back these days. Don't forget Diplomacy is a game of lies, backstabs, and broken promises--without that aspect, it's a pretty boring game.

In reference to source books on Diplomacy, Rod Walker writes: "...I hope you'll also mention my Gamer's Guide to Diplomacy. This is available from Avalon Hill @ \$4.50 plus \$1.45 postage and handling. It is more succinct than either Sharp's book or Peerry's compilation, and is more up-to-date than the latter, but without (in my opinion) omitting really essential detail."

Okay, consider it mentioned. I'll have to get a copy.

Rod goes on about the fake SNAFU!: "I have not seen a copy. However, I understand there is an article in it called 'Essentials of Territorial Expansion.' From the brief quotes, it is obviously an article I'm quite familiar with. I wrote it. It was written in 1971 as part of a 'zine called FAKIR, which in turn was a parody of another 'zine called WAZIR. Part of the humor of the piece was its parody of the writing style of a prominent fan of the time. That no longer comes through, but I am gratified to see that people still consider it funny enough to reprint. This is not the first time it has been used in a fake or parody. I'm glad of the reprint, but would hope that you'll mention in SNAFU! the name of the actual author."

Hear that, Mr. Faker? Hope you'll send Rod a copy so he can see what you did to his article. It was attributed to Francois Guerrier in the fake--a point I especially found funny, as it resembles the Kate Hill carefully reasoned rebuttals he's been sending me lately.

John Michalski writes: "The real SNAFU! digest arrived yesterday and looks good. I am sorry it wasn't as acerbic as the fake (which I spotted as a fake for once!)...."

Hope you're not suggesting the real SNAFU! has acedia--or, worse yet, that its pubber is acephalic! Yeah, well, I spotted it as a fake too. In fact, I wasn't fooled for a moment. Seriously, it seems to me that the purpose of a fake should be to entertain, not to mislead or create confusion. And this fake serves that purpose well.

Steve Colombo wants to argue about Mensa, but I'll leave that to another issue. But he asks: "How about a picture of you and your wife when you write next time....I would also be interested in an autobiography in SNAFU! for all us subbers."

I will publish a picture when we find one with high enough contrast to survive two photocopyings. As for the bio, I thought I had written about myself too much. Okay, someday, when I've got a few free pages. Meanwhile, I was born in Barrie, Ontario, eldest of three, raised in Fergus and Elora Ontario, moving to Kitchener when I was 11. I ran away from home at 14, going to Toronto where I managed to get in a few more years of high school before I became a hippy. At 21 I moved to Montréal to attend Sir George Williams University, got a BA in comparative religions, did a year's graduate work, taught a course on the relationship between science and religion on a fellowship, then taught grade 7 in Buckingham PQ for a year. I got my teaching certificate at McGill and went on to Maniwaki to teach high school. I am now the senior English teacher there. Ann and I were married in July, 1980 --and that's all I have room for now.

History

BULGARIA

Bulgaria was carved out of the Balkan states during the seventh century by a Turkish tribe called the Bulgars. By the tenth century Bulgaria controlled an area from the Black Sea, almost to the Adriatic, and from Greece to the Danube River. It became a major centre of Byzantine culture. In 1014, however, it was conquered and the First Bulgarian Empire destroyed.

An uprising in 1185 established the Second Bulgarian Empire. When the crusaders captured Constantinople in 1204 Bulgaria was again the strongest power in the region and still expanding. But a Mongol army invaded in 1241, destroying Bulgaria, which was finally absorbed into the Ottoman Empire. It wasn't until the nineteenth century that the Bulgarians began to free themselves from the Ottomans.

In the mid-nineteenth century peasant uprisings erupted and a revolutionary movement began forming. In 1867 a secret Bulgarian committee signed an agreement with Serbia to form a Serbo-Bulgarian state. During the Russian-Ottoman War of 1877-78 large numbers of Ottoman landlords left Bulgaria and the peasants succeeded in their revolt. A liberal constitution was adopted in 1879 and the national assembly elected a prince to head it. Politics, however, were quite unstable.

In 1908 Bulgaria took advantage of the Young Turk revolt in Turkey to declare final independence. War broke out between the Balkan states and the Ottomans (1912-13) ending with Macedonia being divided between Greece, Serbia, and Bulgaria. Another result of this war was the tension between Serbia and Austria-Hungary over Serbia's occupation of parts of Albania.

During World War I, Bulgaria allied with the Central powers in return for parts of Macedonia and Thrace formerly occupied by Serbia and Greece. Following the war, peace treaties established new borders in the Balkans and arranged for large minority groups to be resettled. This calmed friction in the southern Balkans. Communist parties started developing in the Balkans immediately after the Russian Revolution, but were outlawed in Bulgaria.

During the Depression years Germany was virtually Bulgaria's only trading partner and Bulgaria subsequently joined the Tripartite Pact. But as Russian troops advanced into the area during World War II, Bulgaria switched sides. By the end of 1947 the Communist Party in Bulgaria managed to gain control of the government and joined the Russian blockade of Tito's Yugoslavia.

Modern Bulgaria is firmly in the Soviet bloc and is developing an industrial base. Though there is a two party system, the Bulgarian Communist Party (BCP) dominates all local and national governments.

Rules

PLAYERS AND COUNTRIES, LAST PART

From Rule 1: "at the start of the game, the players draw lots to determine which Great Powers each will represent. This is the only element of chance in the game."

In postal play the GM usually "draws lots," but the use of preference lists is common. I can't see that that is against the spirit of the rule, even though it violates the letter. In any game the players can make minor adjustments to the rules provided they all agree. And because of the long commitment involved in a postal game, such minor concessions make sense.

As for chance, the postal game introduces another element; i.e., the post office. Even with all concerned being cautious (by allowing the post office a lot of time to deliver zines and orders), it still sometimes screws up. But everyone involved should, in the spirit of the game, make every effort to overcome this handicap. Players should, for example, send preliminary orders as soon as they receive the game report, even when the deadline is three or four weeks away. NMR insurance also helps reduce this chance element. On the other side, I would play only in zines which publish regularly. An occasional delay is fine, but if a zine is habitually late, then a player does not know if the post office has lost his copy or if the publisher is simply late again. I usually phone GMs about three weeks after a deadline if I haven't received the game report, though with the economy the way it is, I think that perhaps resigning from games in zines which are irregular in their publication dates makes more sense.

It takes some effort to avoid NMRs, but I think all concerned should strive to remove chance from the game--which is why I am so tough on dropouts (players who NMR out of games). If I didn't care about the game, and the rules, then I would ignore people who reduce the game to a guessing game (who's going to NMR this time?).

Travel

THE BACKSIDE OF COLORADO

My first day in the Rockies is somewhat of a blur. There's just too much to take in and retain. Near Vail I remember descending a long winding road with a deep tree-lined valley beside me. I must have had lunch somewhere, but I don't remember it. I do recall stopping for gas in towns that seemed no wider than the highway, carved into the mountain side. I asked a gas station attendant at one what the people there did for a living, as I saw no industry of any sort and one certainly couldn't farm in that landscape. I got a useless answer like: "They work in town." But where the H was "town"?

Towards evening, the drama had gone out of the mountains. They stopped trying to impress. I camped near Gyman at a

camp ground that had a patch of grass surrounded by a low fence for pitching tents. I saw a dirt road nearby and walked along it after supper. The earth, and even the mountain (which wasn't very tall), seemed to be made of baked mud. I sat for a while by a shallow river and felt as if I could have been anywhere in North America. The river gurgled over rocks, there was a pasture on the other side, and low trees dotted the landscape.

I walked back past the campground to see a garage dug out of the mountain, shored up with timbers. That convinced me more than ever that the entire region consisted of that baked mud. As long as it stayed dry, it had interesting potential for architecture. But the house was a plain brick affair with four walls that took no advantage of the land.

I slept well that night. There was only one family camped there and they retired early.

Next morning I linked up with the Colorado River. The highway followed it as it tore through mountain ranges, gouging out gorges, and smashing round huge rocks. All morning I planned out a novel about a small group making their way through those canyons, wishing the cowboy books and movies had captured the setting more realistically. At one point a sign informed travellers that the nearest fresh water was over 200 miles away, even though the river raced a few hundred feet below. Apparently there were a lot of skeletons of horses at the bottom of the canyon.

By late morning I was well into the deserts and headed north-west towards Salt Lake City via a secondary highway.

Hobby News

The wooden block problem in the US seems to have been solved. Loring ("Windy") Windblad has offered to go into the business of producing them. They would cost \$7.00 for the 112 pieces needed for the game. For now they would be unpainted, though perhaps he can offer painted sets in the future. Windy's address is PO Box B 43816, Florence, AZ 85232. This is a prison address, so all correspondence must be in envelopes. Also, Windy cannot receive cash or cheques, so please pay with a money order ONLY.

Don't forget DipCon '82 next July. Send a SASE to Fred Davis, 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, MD 21207 for details.

The SNAFU! fake caused a minor stir in the hobby recently. At first I was convinced Dave Carter was behind it, mainly because of the postmark: "xxxville, xNT." Looks like Oakville, Ontario, which is just outside of Toronto. Also there is a reference to a dumb joke which had just appeared in EUROPA EXPRESS. I checked EE's mailing list, and Dave Carter is the only likely candidate on the list. It couldn't be Nick Russen, Clive Tonge, or even Francois Guerrier as there are too many attacks on that trio and I doubt they'd have that much of a

sense of humor—or the energy to produce a fake. So, I sent Dave a cryptic note, figuring the meaning would be clear only to the faker. He answered: "Not me! ... If you backed me to the wall and pointed a gun, I would say that it was Gary Goughlan, however I wouldn't mortgage the house on it."

I put it out of mind until I received a copy of TORPEDO the other day and noticed that Bern Simpson didn't know how to spell "separate." Odd, I'd seen that before. Sure enough, it was misspelled in the fake too. But other misspellings didn't correspond. I noticed the fake and TORPEDO had the same type faces though. I asked Ann to check it, as she has a better eye for such things. Yes, same type face, but not the same typewriter. She pointed out that in the fake the l's and b's were dropped below the line. Fascinating. So I checked out old copies of SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS and, sure enough, they were produced by a typewriter that dropped the l's and b's. So, I phoned Dave. "Hey Dave, what did you do with your old typewriter?" He said he gave it to his niece. Ah ha!

So, I hereby accuse Dave Carter's niece! (Dave, you should teach her how to spell "separate." She spells "standbys" better than you do though.) Her name wouldn't happen to be Margaret Germaini, would it?

Other Zines

Photo-reduction has really caught on in the past few months. Seems everyone who photocopies is looking at it as a way of reducing costs. IRKOME, EUROPA EXPRESS, SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS, and TORPEDO have all jumped on the reducing bandwagon. It makes a lot of sense, as it effectively cuts one's photocopy costs and time in half and keeps the actual amount of paper down to keep mailing costs reasonable.

Tom Swider sent along the rules for FINAL CONQUEST, a seven-player world game adding planes and nukes to armies and fleets. He says he has one opening left in his subzine TOXIC STOCK SYNDROME, carried in PUGUE TIMES by Marion Bates, whose address, unfortunately, I don't have. How about a sample copy? Oh, it's PO Box 381, Kalkaska, MI 49646.

Game openings seem scarce these days. Here are the ones I'm aware of:

GIVE ME A WEAPON! Konrad Baumeister, Box 6050 Henle Hall, Washington, DC 20057, sub: 10/34., game fee: \$3. 4 weeks.

SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS, Dave Carter, 118 Horsham Ave., Willowdale, Ontario K2L 1Z9, sub: 1/504, game fee: \$2. 5 weeks.

THEOMI, Scott Hanson, 701 38 15th Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55414, Sub: 10/3, game fee: \$3-5. 4 weeks.

TORPEDO, Bern Simpson, 124 Sixth St., Middlesex, NJ 08846, Sub: 10/36, game fee: \$6, plus \$2 MHR fee. Monthly.

and the list of colds goes on: add INVASION and BLACK FROG to the list.

Battle Stations

Dron Outs: Trevor Baillie, Mike Carroll, Barry Hickey, Ron Kelly, Joe Marshall, Victor Melluci, Keith Mercer, Mike Morris, Bill Plante, Al Rodriguez, Clive Tonge, Dave Weatherhead. Players who NMR out of games ruin the fun for everyone else. These guys can no longer play in SNAFU!

Good Guys:

Pete Gaughan and Charles Letcher need no longer pay game fees as they both played out their first positions.

The following have played at least two game years here and so can enter new games (when they become available again) at half price: Bob Acheson, Bob Albrecht, Garvin Boyle, Charles Byrne, Dave Carter, Steve Colombo, Blair Cusack, John Davies, Claude Gautron, John Horn, Steve Hutton, Jan Jensen, Lori Jensen, Alain Martine, Dan MacLellan, Nelson Millar, George Mills, Wayne Norton, Darryl Phillips, Errol Platt, Bruce Ponne, Sharon Poppe, Bern Sampson, Tom Swider, Dan Wilson, Bill Young, Rick Young.

I expect that by the time I offer new games all current players will be on the half-price or free game fee list.

NMR Insurance: see Houserule #37. The following have this service: Garvin Boyle, Charles Byrne, Dave Carter, John Davies, Pete Gaughan, Claude Gautron, Steve Hutton, Jan Jensen, Lori Jensen, Jack Jung, Charles Letcher, Dan MacLellan, Errol Platt, Bruce Ponne, Sharon Ponne, Bern Sampson, Rick Young.

Subs About to Expire: The following expire at issue #18: Len Johnson, John Leeder, Bruce Linsey.

New Subbers: Rob Lowes (for address, see 1980 AM), Doug Millstone (see North-3), Roy Smith (see Bourse or North-3).

Standbys: "N" = "North" (regular games begun here); "O" = "Orphan" (regular games begun elsewhere); "V" = "Variant"; "M" = "Mensa" (restricted entry games set up by the Mensa Diplomacy Special Interest Group).

Bob Acheson (N,O); Dave Carter (N,O); Walter Compton (M,N,O); Blair Cusack (N,O); John Davies (N,O); Claude Gautron (N,O); Jan Jensen (N,O); Lori Jensen (N,O); Mark Keller (N,O,V); Rob Lowes (N,O); Mike Mazzer (M); George Mills (N,O); Bob Olsen (M,N); Tom Swider (N,O,V); Bern Sampson (N,O); Dan Wilson (M,N,O,V); Windy Windblad (M,N,O).

Please let me know if you want on or off this list.

Waiting for a Game Start: Errol Platt, Bob Acheson. Special thanks to Errol for giving up his spot in North-3 so a new subber could play.

Quiz

No one knew what Rock Hudson had in common with Dmitri Shostakovich. It was one of my favorite sci fi movies: Seconds. Rock Hudson starred and the music used throughout was from Shostakovich's Symphony #5 in D major.

Richard Strauss and Douglas Rain? Good for Steve Hutton for recognizing the star of 2001: A Space Odyssey. (Rain played the voice of "Hal"--which is as close to a starring role as one can get in that movie.) However, Steve attribut-

ed "the Blue Danube," used in the movie to Strauss. Sorry, Steve, that was Johann ! Richard wrote "Thus Sprach Zarathustra," the opening bars of which were used as the theme of the movie.

We have to throw the third question out. I wanted Roger Moore (who was in several Maverick episodes) and asked Ann to name a Bond movie he was in. Apologies from both of us for not checking things out more carefully. I guess Bob Acheson gets credit for saying "they both made money." Mark Keller named Moore, then realized he wasn't in "Diamonds are Forever" and changed his answer.

"The Little Rascals" and "Baretta" both had Robert Blake in them. He played "Alfalfa" under his real name: Micky Gubitosi. (Wonder why he changed it?) Good for Steve Hutton, Mark Keller, and Bob Acheson.

I think I better stay away from movies. Try another TV one:

- a) What did the origins of "All in the Family" have in common with "Three's Company"? (Watch it, this is a bit tricky.)
- b) On a different topic: What specific thing did the writers Ernest Hemingway and Pierre Berton have in common?

Parting Shot

Philly, oh? It's only -41° (C or F) this morning. That's a new experience for some of our readers. Now you know why we started your torque! From comments some have made over the phone, I understand you're having problems starting cars.

You should have no difficulties starting a car until the thermometer drops below -18°C (0°F), as long as it's well tuned and your distributor and electric cables are dry. Below that temperature, keep your gas tank full (to prevent condensation in the fuel line). I usually "plug the car in" at night when it's that cold. That is, use a block heater--a heating coil installed in a frost plug that can be plugged into a household outlet. It keeps your oil from getting too sluggish. You could always use a 60 watt light bulb (turned on, of course) set against the block if you don't have a block heater.

To start it, run the accelerator as you crank the starter. (I know the owner's manual says not to, but you want to get your car started, don't you?) Just keep on pumping until the engine starts to cough. If it continues to cough, but won't catch, you've flooded it, so hold the accelerator to the floor as you turn the starter. At -40° turn the headlights on for 30 seconds before trying to start it; that'll get the battery working and warm up the electrical system.

Let the car warm for a minute before putting it in gear. There's no need to let it idle for 15 minutes! Just drive slowly for a mile or so. Test your brakes; they might be frozen (but will thaw quickly). Your ride will be rough too, as you experience "square tires" (and sluggish shocks). Don't worry about tires--they'll thaw. Drive carefully!

Remember, things could be worse. In 1981 in Verkhoyansk, Siberia, the temperature was -67.8°F (-55°C). Now that's really! (In fact, it's a good place to go to.)

Good luck!

Tom